

REMARKS

Entry of Amendment And IDS

As Applicants are filing a RCE herewith, this amendment and the accompanying IDS should be entered and considered at this time.

Except as discussed below, Applicants are amending the claims to clarify the claimed invention, not in response to a patentability rejection.

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in the order in which they appear in the Final Rejection.

Claim Objections

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner objects to Claims 26-28 and 30-42 for alleged informalities and/or defects. This objection is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, the Examiner objects to Claims 26-28 and 30-42 and contends that the original disclosure lacks an adequate description on the feature "an edge of the second layer of the input terminal portion is coplanar with an edge of the first insulating layer."¹ The Examiner contends that in Figs. 4A and 4B of the present application "the extension of the second layer (208) of the input terminal portion and that of the first insulating layer (205) are both truncated (see the commonly recognized truncation symbol "≈" on the right side of the drawings). As Figs. 4A and 4B show only one TFT or pixel cell, no real edges of the two layers are shown there on the right side." Applicants respectfully disagree.

Initially, Applicants note that contrary to the Examiner's interpretation, the truncation symbol "≈" in Figs. 4A and 4B of the present application is used for denoting an abbreviation of the

¹ As explained below, Applicants have amended the claim language of this feature.

thickness of the substrate. It is not being used to show truncation of the substrate in the width direction. If Applicants had wished to show that type of truncation, they would have put made the edges of the input terminal portion jagged, i.e. §. They did not, but instead made the edges straight to indicate the end of the input terminal portion. This is consistent with the rest of the disclosure of the present application as explained below.

In particular, the present application clearly discloses that an input terminal portion is disposed on **an end portion of the substrate** for electric connection to a wiring of a circuit disposed on another substrate. See e.g. page 8, lines 12-14 of the specification. Further, the present application discloses that the arrangement of the pixel portion and the input terminal portion in the active matrix substrate manufactured in accordance with Second Embodiment (i.e. Fig. 4A, 4B on pages 20 et seq.) are identical with that in the First Embodiment as shown in Fig. 10. See e.g. page 23, lines 19-21 of the specification. Fig. 10 clearly shows that each of input terminal portions 903, 905 and 912 is definitely formed on an end portion of the substrate. Hence, one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand that **the right sides of the input terminal portions in Figs. 4A and 4B correspond to the end portions of the substrate**. Therefore, the objected to claim limitation is clearly supported by the specification and drawings filed in this application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 31-34 and 39-42

The Examiner also rejects Claims 31-34 and 39-42 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin (US 5,825,449). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

In particular, the Examiner contends that Shin discloses that “the second layer in the input

terminal therein would be naturally have an edge portion in which at least a bottom surface ... would be naturally coplanar with a bottom surface in an edge portion of the first insulating layer”.

While Applicants disagree and traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended independent Claims 31-34 to recite “a side surface of the second layer of said input terminal portion is coplanar with a side surface of the first insulating layer.” This feature is shown, for example, in Figs. 4A and 4B of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that Shin does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Shin does not disclose or suggest the device of Claims 31-34 and 39-42, and those claims are patentable thereover. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 26-28, 30 and 35-38

The Examiner also rejects Claims 26-28, 30 and 35-38 under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of Ikeda et al. (US 5,428,250) This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons explained above, independent Claims 26-28 and 30 have been amended in a similar manner, and Shin fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Ikeda also fails to disclose or suggest the deficiencies in Shin discussed above.

Hence, neither Shin or Ikeda disclose or suggest the claimed invention, and the claims are patentable thereover. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicants are also adding new dependent Claims 43-50. As each of these claims are dependent claims, for at least the reasons discussed above for independent claims, these claims are also allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these claims be entered and allowed.

If any fee should be due for these new claims, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are also submitting an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) herewith. Applicants are further preparing another IDS and will submit this IDS in the very near future. As a RCE is being filed herewith, these IDSs should be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action for this application.

Conclusion

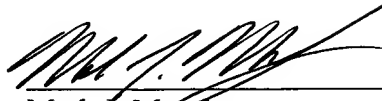
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any further fee is due for this amendment, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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